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Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 10
Trade and development

1. At its 6th and 20th meetings, on 4 and 13 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 10)).

2. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) introduced their respective subprogrammes and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation for the programme and for the work of UNCTAD, especially in the context of subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes.

4. It was emphasized by some delegations that the logical framework of the programme provided limited linkage between the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. In that context, the view was expressed that the logical framework must be improved, with better measurement of impact, more specific indicators of achievement and the inclusion of feedback from beneficiaries as an indicator of achievement.

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5. Delegations emphasized the importance of value chains, transfer of technology, trade intelligence, trade facilitation and the support provided to the least developed countries and countries in special situations, including small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, in those areas. In that regard, clarification was sought as to the non-inclusion of those issues in the logical frameworks, in particular in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the various subprogrammes, although they had been reflected under the various strategies.

6. Some delegations sought clarification of how UNCTAD would integrate the post-2015 development agenda, when adopted by the General Assembly, into the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017.

7. Some delegations pointed out that paragraph 10.4 referred to three pillars, with no clear explanation of what those pillars were.

8. Some delegations emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation and sought clarification regarding its promotion, as reflected in indicator of achievement (a) (iii) under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development. In addition, questions were raised concerning the scope of the work of UNCTAD in the interaction of international investment and official development assistance, as indicated in expected accomplishment (a) and indicator of achievement (a) (ii) under subprogramme 2, Investment and enterprise, especially when there was no agreement on the inflow of foreign investment.

9. Some delegations expressed the view that the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its thirteenth session, held in Doha in 2012, had not been reflected in the programme, in particular with regard to non-tariff barriers. In that context, they expressed concern over the change in indicator of achievement (b) (ii) under component 1, International trade in goods and services, of subprogramme 3, International trade. In the report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/75), the same subprogramme had included reference to reducing or eliminating arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers in international trade.

10. Clarification was sought regarding the work of UNCTAD on regional integration, in particular in connection with subprogramme 5, Africa, least developed countries and special programmes, and on the issue of infrastructure development, especially in connection with hard infrastructure. In addition, some delegations raised questions concerning the reflection of issues of transfer of technology in the overall programme of work of UNCTAD.

11. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the work of ITC and its efforts in advancing trading services in Africa, and in particular its work directed towards the least developed countries. A comment was made regarding the need to further build capacity and facilitate cooperation among countries.

12. Strong support was expressed for the leadership of ITC. Furthermore, delegations expressed pleasure at hearing the representative of the Secretary-General reaffirm the efforts of the Centre to seek results within the management framework.

13. Satisfaction was expressed concerning the proposed expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of subprogramme 6, Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development. In that connection, it was observed that that subprogramme was the only subprogramme of programme 10 to incorporate the gender dimension among its indicators of achievement.

14. Clarification was sought concerning the link between proposed expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under subprogramme 6, specifically, how indicator of achievement (a) (ii) would be measured and which criteria were to be used to measure indicator of achievement (b). The comment was also made that, with regard to indicators of achievement (c) (i) and (ii), there was no definition of international competitiveness that would make it possible to appropriately measure an increase.

15. It was observed that, in paragraph 10.24 of the strategy of the subprogramme, it had been stated that ITC would contribute to the implementation of, among others, the declarations made at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in 2011. In that connection, delegations observed that the concept of aid effectiveness had not been agreed upon by the General Assembly and that the event had not been sponsored by the United Nations. The request was made for further elaboration of the rationale for the inclusion of the Forum in the subprogramme, including the specific resolution that provided the mandate for the work of ITC in support of the Forum.

16. A question was raised concerning the possibility of revising some elements of subprogramme 6 in view of the discussions and negotiations currently under way in connection with the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

17. Clarifications were sought concerning the work of ITC with regard to services and regional integration.

Conclusions and recommendations

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 10.9

At the end of the paragraph, add the following:

"UNCTAD and ITC will increase their use of evaluation surveys to seek feedback from relevant stakeholders from across all subprogrammes in order to measure improved capacity of stakeholders to address trade and development issues as a result of UNCTAD and/or ITC assistance."

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (iii) with the following:

"(iii) Number of UNCTAD activities, including publications and workshops, that promote either North-South, South-South or triangular cooperation".

Subprogramme 3
International trade

Component 1
International trade in goods and services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace expected accomplishment (d) with the following:

"(d) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, as well as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, and countries with economies in transition and middle-income countries, according to their needs, to design and implement creative economy objectives and sustainable development strategies at all levels".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (ii) with the following:

"(ii) Number of specific actions taken by Member States, at the national, regional or multilateral level, aimed at streamlining or harmonizing non-tariff measures in international trade, including the reduction or elimination of arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers in international trade, with the assistance of UNCTAD".

In indicator of achievement (d) (ii), after the words "sustainable development", insert the words "and poverty eradication".

Strategy

Paragraph 10.16

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"10.16 The subprogramme, under the responsibility of the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, through the three pillars of the work of UNCTAD, will promote inclusive and sustainable growth and development and poverty eradication, based on the international trade in goods, services and commodities, the international trading system and the linkages between trade and internationally agreed development goals. Non-tariff measures and non-tariff barriers are gaining attention in international trade. International efforts should be made to address

non-tariff measures, and aim to reduce and to eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers. The subprogramme will address persistent and emerging development challenges (inter alia, women's economic empowerment, access to decent and productive employment, food security and poverty eradication) and assess their implications for the development prospects of developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, including at the national policymaking level. It will continue to improve cooperation and enhance synergies with other international organizations and foster the coordination of system-wide United Nations activities in the area of international trade. It will also strengthen the communication and dissemination aspects of its work."

Paragraph 10.17

Replace subparagraph (a) with the following:

"(a) Monitoring and assessing from a development perspective the evolution of the international trading system and trends in trade policy and international trade and their consistency with the multilateral trading system rules;".

In subparagraph (b), after the word "protectionism", insert the words ", including subsidies and disguised trade barriers,".

At the end of subparagraph (f), add the words "and assess the impact of the development on the enabling clause of the World Trade Organization (WTO)".

Replace subparagraph (q) with the following:

"(q) Addressing issues at the interface between trade and environment in the context of the promotion of sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, including through technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and seizing trade and investment opportunities relating to this issue;".

Replace subparagraph (r) with the following:

"(r) Addressing challenges and opportunities in the promotion of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including tools and insights available to achieve this."

Add the following new subparagraph (w):

"(w) In collaboration with WTO, ITC and other relevant partners, consolidate its work on databases on non-tariff measures, continue its analysis of the impact of non-tariff measures on the trade and development prospects of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and continue its participation in the Transparency in Trade initiative."

Component 2
Commodities

Indicators of achievement

Insert a new indicator of achievement (a) (ii), as follows:

"(ii) Increased amount of research on commodity production in countries with economies that are dependent on commodities, with the aim of diversifying their production, including by increasing the added value of their commodities".

Strategy

Paragraph 10.18

In the second sentence of the paragraph, replace the words "to address the impacts of volatility of commodity prices on them" with the words "to monitor commodity prices and address the impacts of excessive volatility of those prices on them".

After the second sentence, insert the following:

"UNCTAD will monitor developments and challenges in commodity markets and address links between international commodity trade and national development, in particular with regard to poverty eradication."

In subparagraph (a), replace the words "poverty reduction" with the words "poverty eradication".

In subparagraph (b), after the word "agriculture", insert the words "and fisheries".

At the end of subparagraph (e) (iv), add the words ", and sanitary and phytosanitary measures".

Subprogramme 4
Technology and logistics

Strategy

Paragraph 10.19

Insert the following new subparagraph (a):

"(a) Supporting initiatives for and conducting policy dialogue on diffusion of scientific and technical knowledge and transfer of, access to and acquisition of technology for developing countries, including diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how;".

Renumber the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly.

Add the following new subparagraph (m):

"(m) Assisting in the implementation of customs automation and trade facilitation programmes."

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Strategy

Paragraph 10.24

In the penultimate sentence, delete the words ", and the declaration made at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011".

Replace the last sentence with the following:

"The subprogramme will play an important role in furthering the implementation of the Doha, Hong Kong and Geneva ministerial declarations adopted by WTO, in particular by improving and enhancing trade support institutions and policies for the benefit of exporting efforts and by strengthening the export capacity of enterprises to respond to market opportunities."

Paragraph 10.28

At the end of the paragraph, add ", including through the further improvement of its results-based management systems".

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 6
Operational aspects of trade promotion and export development

Replace the words "World Trade Organization resolutions and decisions" with the words "World Trade Organization declarations".